

FALL ROYAL REVISITED

After being President of the Fall Royal I see three possible conclusions concerning this event:

1-That it was perfect and can't be improved upon (which I doubt).

2-That there is a definite communication breakdown on campus and that for some reason all the letters I sent to staff before and after the Royal were never received.

3-That no one gives a damn!

Don't get me wrong I don't want to brand all staff and students as being apathetic, but the majority seem to be. Anyone who organizes (or tries to organize) an activity on this campus finds this out in a hurry.

I am appalled at the lack of interest by many in trying to improve the future of this campus.

One important part of being head of an activity is not only to try organize and carry out that activity as well as possible, but also to put down solid recommendations for improving that activity in the following years. Along these lines I have been trying to get input

from staff and students on Royal.

Of approximately ninety-five letters sent out to faculty members on November 1st specifically asking for recommendations for next year's Royal and to determine the optimum ratio of staff-student participation in Royal I received one written and three verbal replies. (Response to letters sent out before Royal was even worse). The other 95% - I can understand they are busy, but, Royal is one activity that can make Macdonald known to the outside community and strengthen our case for remaining on this campus.

Most of the students on this campus are here for three years or less while staff members have a much longer stay. They therefore have a much larger stake in this campus's future; they can't change lifestyles as easily as students. But, from my viewpoint staff doesn't seem to be worried or care.

Well, faculty, do you really give a damn?

Sincerely

Bob McClelland
President Fall Royal '73



SABBATICAL LEAVE IN CUBA

It can hardly be said that a tropical climate exists on McGill's Macdonald Campus at its Ste. Anne-de-Bellevue location. In spite of this a substantial amount of interest and research projects relating to agricultural production in the tropics has characterized efforts of many staff members of McGill's Faculty of Agriculture. Perhaps a major reason for this interest has been the large number of post-graduate students from tropical countries who have studied at Macdonald and their interest to make a meaningful contri-

bution to increase food production in their own countries. The infectious nature of their enthusiasm may well have rubbed off on some of their professors, particularly with the growing realization that one of the greatest challenges of this century will be the attempt to provide enough food in the developing countries, largely located in tropical and sub-tropical climatic areas.

Dr. E. Donefer, a nutritionist and a member of the Department of Animal Science in the Faculty of Agriculture, has evolved his interest in tropical agriculture over the past decade to the point where it now represents one of his major research efforts.

To increase his knowledge of aspects of tropical agriculture, Dr. Donefer spent the 1972-73 academic year on sabbatical leave working at the Institute of Animal Science in Havana, Cuba. This program was sponsored by Canadian University Services Overseas and the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) in Ottawa, and provided the opportunity to observe the remarkable increase in animal production achieved by the Cubans in the past half-dozen years. During his stay at the Institute, an affiliate of the University of Havana, Dr. Donefer participated in several studies. One of these, investigated the possibility of converting sugarcane bagasse, a low-grade fibrous by-product of the sugar industry, into a useful feed for cattle. This study paralleled research

which has been conducted on the Macdonald Campus on the treatment of straw, a residue from grain production which is now largely wasted, to improve its nutritive value for livestock. Another trial conducted in Cuba involved the use of rapeseed meal as a protein source for cattle. The rapeseed meal, about 20 tons, was supplied by the Canadian Government which is interested in developing export markets for this crop grown largely in the Prairie provinces. Plans were also developed with the Cuban institute for extensive feeding trials with processed sugarcane using a Canadian developed derinding process.

On a social note, Dr. Donefer found Cubans to be open, friendly and sincere. He and his family made a great deal of friends mostly neighbours and fellow-workers. The children went to public schools where they had the opportunity to come in close contact with the Cuban youth. Dr. Donefer assured me that in Cuba they were never unwelcome and most important of all they never felt any sort of personal danger, in contrast to the situation in other countries. Adapting to the Cuban lifestyle took a while but it was interesting. Sale of goods is government controlled so that rationing is practiced according to the supply of goods and the individual needs of consumers. The Donefer's shopped in special stores patronized by foreign technical person-

(Cont. p. 2)

FINAL EXAMS-GOOD OR BAD?

Are exams really important? Are final exams an accurate evaluation of a student's knowledge, understanding and retention of course material? What alternatives could be used instead of final exams? When these questions were posed to staff and students, the opinions received varied among the staff as well as among the students.

Professor D.A. Raymond, Food Science, felt the question, "What do I think about exams?" could be translated to "What do I think about exams for others?" i.e. students. "I think a lot about exams. I am bothered by exams. I question their use, their value, as an evaluation tool. I dislike writing exams. I find setting an exam one of the most difficult tasks I face. I procrastinate to the point of no return on marking exams, not because of the time and concentration demanded of marking but because the results are final and irrevocable. They bring me up short, facing evidence that is irrefutable of my shortcomings as a teacher. I am concerned by the obvious errors or omissions in answers that at this stage I cannot do anything about. A "final" exam is final in more ways than one. This is what I think about final exams personally.

But what do I think about using exams as the evaluation tool to judge the degree of understanding of a body of knowledge that I want to be sure the student has gained from my teaching efforts? I recognize the need to evaluate, I agree with the philosophy that learning for learning sake has few devoted followers, and that for most of us other motivating factors are needed. One of these motivational factors is achieving a preset goal, in

this case a grade. Another is the competitive element of being rated in your peer group.

There are various ways other than the formal, written exam. I've tried many of these. The short quiz given every other week, the choice answer - true or false type of test (never called an exam), evaluation on class performance and this is frequently a lab or conference type situation, workable where the group is very small so that the evaluator really knows the individual and can judge performance by observation.

I haven't used but I have experienced self-grading. Where the student informs the instructor of the grade they feel they have "earned". This is opting out, as I see it. The instructor passes the responsibility to evaluate inherent in his position to the student. Practitioners of this method claim it is a much fairer, unbiased method of evaluation - for my money this is begging the issue - but it is one method.

From my personal experience and this is all on which I can base my answer to the posed question, I think a final exam is an equitable method of determining knowledge retention, it is not the only method. A mix of methods is probably the most effective. I have no arguments against the alternative methods except to say that no matter what they are called they basically are measuring devices and produce the same gut reaction in the student. The only real alternative is complete removal of any evaluating practices from the educational system and I am still reactionary enough not to be convinced of the value of that approach."

Jim Donaghue, a Ull Zoology major also thought that "final

exams are a pretty good idea". Jim went on to say that "his term marks thus far, in several courses are rather weak, to say the least and that although studying for finals is a real pain, at least they give him a chance to bring up his marks in those courses which are in need of some attention".

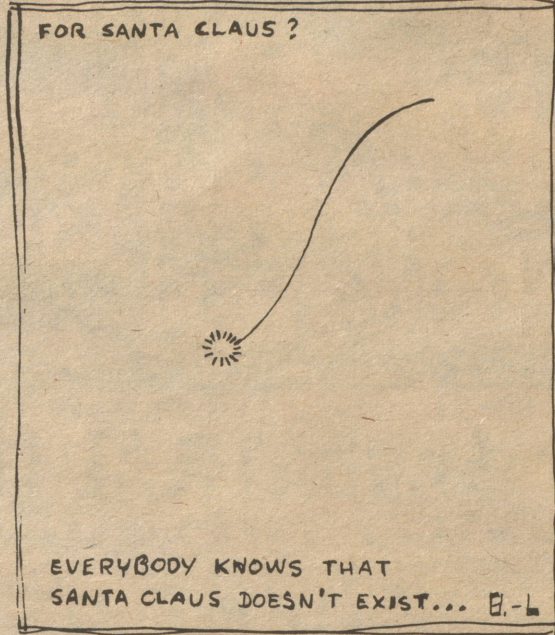
There you have it - the reason - for exams, but what about the reasons against final exams. Arlene Murphy, a Ull Dietetics student, is not a supporter of final exams. According to Arlene, "The majority of exams are used to indicate a student's standing in relation to others. It supposedly measures his knowledge of the subject; however, I feel that many exams act merely to indicate one's memory capacity. The

(Cont. p. 3)



Photo by Ticas

WHAT IS CHRISTMAS...



EDITORIAL

I hate to write about exams at a time like this, where everybody is cramming and writing the conclusion to long exhaustive reports. However, the question of the purpose of exams is one that rises up every end of semester.

Exams come in all sizes, types, styles. They seem to be part of human nature. Some advocate the total abolition of exams. This is hardly good thinking since one is continuously appraised by superiors in this hierarchic society of ours.

The real problem, I think, revolves around, this question: "What is the professor testing you for, "or from a student point of view, "What do you understand?"

Are exams testing to see if a student can memorize, repeat like a parrot, write pages of bull..., guess like a professional gambler, store and vomit information at speeds approaching that of computers? Or are exams trying to make you think, to gear your brain, to make judgments, to justify vague suppositions?

Is the examiner probing to find out if you understand your material or is he trying to dig out some irrelevant detail of little interest today just for the sake of covering the program.

On the other hand students and professors alike know that the student knows little. The mere fact that exams are announced well in advance and that professors give explicit information on exam contents justifies my claim. This advanced notice permits the student to scam great bundles of information in a short period of time and forget it as fast.

What are we trying to produce a creative mind or a computerized robot?

Exams reflect two things: the ability of the professor to communicate knowledge and the effort and interest of students to appreciate this additional knowledge.

Exams are no doubt justified but examiners and curriculum programmers please do not forget your goal: Creative mind or robot?

Good luck in your exams.

Think of the holiday, it might cheer you up.

Claude Lévesque
Editor

Letters to the editor

Sir:

People are asking where to obtain information about the international language ESPERANTO. As the promoting organization is a nonprofit one, with small funds.

Would you please indicate that many public libraries have books; there are contacts in 3000 places throughout the world; 72 places in Canada; and particular addresses may be found in telephone books or obtained from the national office, Esperanto, Box 174, Rox-

boro, Quebec. The next international Esperanto Congress will be in Hamburg, Germany, opening on July 27, 1974, with 2000 expected. Any Canadians who would like to go should send now for enrollment forms. No classes or teachers are necessary in order to write and speak Esperanto - some people compose letters in it after a few days, as there are no irregular verbs, exceptions, idiom, and it is phonetic. It is the perfect language for science and for international affairs

and it is too little known in Canada.

Truly yours,

Lorcá OhUiginn

Esperanto Information Section

Dear Editor,

This article refers to your controversial issue of Nov. 15th. I would like to comment on the articles submitted on CUSO and SUCO.

The distinction should be made between the CUSO (Canadian University Services Overseas) and SUCO (Service Universitaire Canadien Outre-Mer) organizations. Although they are both volunteer organizations recruiting Canadians for work overseas and are similarly funded, there are organizational differences.

My purpose is not to compare the two organizations but I would like to make it clear that Mr. Perron's comments are based on his own personal experiences, and these experiences were with SUCO not CUSO. I think it is important to point out that both articles on SUCO are outdated. SUCO has taken major steps in the past few years to correct and reassess its programmes and objectives.

I hope to submit in a future issue, a factual article on CUSO and SUCO, and comment on the complaints made, in the Nov. 15th issue, by the ex-SUCO volunteers.

Noreen George
CUSO MacDonald
Student Rep.

The Harvest

Published bi-monthly by the Student Society of Macdonald College. The opinions expressed herein are those of the Editorial Board and not necessarily those of the Students Council.

"Letters to the Editor" published in this paper express the opinions of the writers and not necessarily those of the Educational Board. The deadline for articles - advertisements and reports to be printed in The Harvest is 5:00 p.m. Sunday evening.

The ad rate for budgeted campus activities is 84 cents per column inch. Nonbudgeted campus activities see Ad Manager.

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LEAVE IN CUBA continuous p.1

nel. Articles such as stereos, TV'S, watches are difficult to buy because they are not considered essential. Food and clothing on the other hand, are essential and nobody in Cuba does without, although supplies are limited.

Education-wise, the Castro Revolution initiated an illiteracy eradication program that has been very successful. Education is free at all levels. Universities are practically oriented, for instance, the Faculty of Engineering has been relocated close to a major sugar factory so that the students could take active part in the processing of their No. 1 crop. A new faculty of Veterinary Medicine is being located in the heart of a dairy producing area.

There are plenty of young graduates in Cuba who with time and experience will be of great value. At the present there is a need for experienced personnel to provide ade-

quate supervision particularly in research.

Dr. Donefer feels personally satisfied with his Cuban experience. He got a few projects started with which he remains in close contact and he and his family had many interesting experiences that I am sure enriched the already vast collection of memoirs of a well travelled family.

H. Garino

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WHAT IS A DIP

A Dip comes in all sizes, shapes and boots. They are found everywhere - underneath, on top of, running around, jumping over, or slithering past Stewart Hall beds. Floor Reps yell at them, Farmers criticize them, Stewart Hall girls tolerate them, Mrs. Orr overlooks them, and we love them.

A Dip is courage in the barnyard, a smile with a beer, strength in a Mac jacket, and energy that is endless. Just when he is gaining prestige, he puts on the milkers wrong, trips down the fire-escape, or slips in cow dung.

A Dip is a composite - he eats like a team of horses, and works like the whole Agr. Staff put together. He has the speed of a runaway pig, the strength of an ox, the quickness of a cat, the endurance of a flagpole sitter, and the capabilities of Paul Bunyan and Johnny Appleseed, all rolled into cowboy boots and patched jeans.

To the farm manager, he has the stability of mush, the fleetness of a snail, mentality of a mule, and is held together by safety pins, mischief and alcohol. To an alumni, he will never work as hard, carry more hay, collect more eggs, or scrub more stalls, than his predecessors.

A Dip is, - Faith riding a tractor, HOPE with patched jeans, and LOVE with a passion. He likes days off, the barn field trips, certain cows, clean underwear, his beer bottle, Ma and Pa, and yes MacDonald College. He's not much on days with classes, dislikes alarm clocks, getting-up-the morning-after-the-night-before, and 'pigs in blankets'.

No one else looks so much to a day off, or so little to working 8-6. No one else gets so much pleasure as from getting into bed, or wetting a pair of parched lips. No one else gets such satisfaction as hit-

ting the sack, being present in the 'best' raids, or easing the pains of a cow in labour.

How one pretty little head can be crammed with such things as: the course of animal diseases, the bones comprising the pelvis, what to do with a cow in heat, plus the dates of all Beer Bashes; is an Agricultural Mystery. He may not be handsome, intriguing or sophisticated, but he is young at heart and a shining example of the Canadian Way.

A Dip is a wonderful creature - you can criticize him, but can't dishearten him. You can hurt his feelings but can't make him quit. You might as well admit, whether you are a farm director, post grad, faculty member or a floor rep. in Stewart, he is hardworking - a determined young man doing his best for himself, his College, and his God.

Whenever he becomes discouraged, or the lamp gets heavy, he should remember there is a reward waiting for him. (Because surely some of God's angels wear straw hats instead of haloes, and carry pitch forks instead of harps). And when hours are long, studies are hard, when fatigue and lonesomeness are on his threshold, he is re-inspired by

looking forward to the day when he can proudly say - I WAS A DIP.

**Staphlo, Dipplo & Strepto
(The Cocci Sisters).**

The government is my shepherd
Therefore I need not work
It alloweth me to lie down on a good job
It leadeth me beside still factories
It destroyeth my initiative
It leadeth me in the path of a parasite for politics sake
Yea though I walk through the valley of laziness and deficit spending
I will fear no evil for the government is with me
It prepareth an economic utopia for me by appropriating the earnings of my own grandchildren
It filleth my head with false security
My inefficiency runeth over
Surely the government should care for me all the days of my life
And I shall dwell in a fools paradise forever.
Suggested by M. McLeod!

FINAL EXAMS— cont'd from p.1

person with a photographic memory, who can study the day before an exam may come out with the highest mark in the class and yet have no real understanding of the subject he has taken. Then, are these standings correct?

Exams tend to make students nervous and anxious. Many dread the upcoming exams and have a sigh of relief when it is over. The feeling of "one down, 4 more to go" is present. As one exam worry is over, another starts, and so the year drags by.

Constant emphasis is on marks and exams offer a means for obtaining these marks. They act as a force, compelling students to study and in this respect they are good. But I feel that marks should not be the major theme of exams. Rather, exams should aid in studying and not connote a feeling of despair when they are mentioned. Much of this despair results from the fear of not passing or of not getting a high enough grade. Perhaps the exam system should be revised, such that a minor portion of the grades

would be determined by them and with the majority of the marks stemming from lab report, assignments and take homes. The student retains much more and for a much longer period, material of which he has to think about rather than if he were hastily memorizing a concept for tomorrow's exam. I feel that the former would indicate, in a much better way, a student's standing and his understanding of the subject.

I do not believe that exams should be used as a basis for determining a student's standings. Rather, they ought to be used diligently as a study aid, with little emphasis on marks and more on understanding." Dr. T.G. Hartsock, Assistant Professor of Animal Science feels that "the ability of a student to do his best on an exam on any particular day varies with a lot of factors over which he has no control, i.e. sickness, other exams, fight with girlfriend or boyfriend, etc." Therefore he "prefers not to determine too large a proportion of a student's grade on any single day and as a rule would

COMING EVENTS

Dec. 2 - Jan. 17

Dec. 2 - Sunday to Dec. 16

Metamusic: live electronic improvisation ensemble in a free concert.

Dec. 2- Sunday: at 3:00 p.m.: Musée d'Art Contemporain, Cite du Havre (Nov. 12 bus).

Dec. 12-Wednesday: at 7:30 p.m.: 3rd floor of McGill's Strathcarr Music Building, 555 Sherbrooke W.

Dec. 16 - Sunday at 7:30 p.m.: Sir George Williams art gallery.

Dec. 5-Wednesday; Woodsmen Beer Party, 5-11 p.m. in C.C. Mac students only.

Dec. 6-Thursday

Department of Microbiology Evening Seminar: The autecological approach to microbial ecology. Presented by Dr. E.L. Schmidt, Department of Microbiology University of Minnesota at 8:00 p.m. in the Biology Building, B-216. Coffee will be served. All welcome!

Q.U.A.A. Hockey League Schedule

Nov. 30 - Friday McGill vs. Mac-Abbott 8:00 p.m.

Dec. 4 - Tuesday U. de Sherbrooke vs. Mac-Abbott 8:00 p.m.

Q.U.A.A. Men's Basketball Schedule.

Dec. 1 - Saturday U. de Sherbrooke vs. Mac-Abbott 8:00 p.m.

Dec. 12-Wednesday Dawson vs. Mac-Abbott.

Remember Carnival Week-January

Notices should be received at least 3 weeks prior to publication every second Thursday. Contact Arlene Murphy at 457-6881 between 6:00 and 6:30 p.m.

AS THE WHEEL GRINDS

If I were Santa Claus, I would give... Dr. Bell: one large farm with several buildings and pieces of equipment for... hum...let's see Dr. Blackwood: one Faculty of Agriculture. It would be sent C.O.D., and should arrive within five years. Dr. David: 1000 new student applicants.

To all professors in general: a book about Principles of Pedagogy.

To some professors in particular: a copy of the English language dictionary (Prof. Godfrey), some bull shit to Prof. Ogilvie, for his waste management lab of course, a new sand box to Prof. MacKenzie, a dinky toy to Prof. McKyes, a big kiss for all other staff members I could not mention.

To The Harvest: a faithful staff and more imaginative editors.

To the Student Council: a new student Society

To the Student Society: a new Student Council

The potheads on campus: one good trip

The Drunkers on campus: Bubble Beer Bath

The girls in "Virginity Tower": 6 o'clock curfew

Dr. R.K. Stewart: pack lunches

To Claude: a sleigh

S.B.: a better centerfold in Playgirl

not make the final exam worth more than 40 - 50% of the course grade.

Exams, pro or con? Tell us how you felt once you have written them.

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- Supplies

See: - Finishing

Top Hat Photo - 457-5271

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TODAY

Time is so short
And we waste it so
A minute here and a minute there
And it is lost.
Never to be reclaimed.

Thorecius says that each
Should enjoy every second
As it comes to you
So that we waste more
Is it good or bad?

Theoretically there is no
Time just space
Every passing space
Measured in light years
So long and yet so short.

Today will be lost
In memories in my mid
Or else forgotten with
All the other important things
Too bad today can't
Last forever!

Anna Whitton

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CLASSIFIED ADS

Could it be that Peter Knox has found his Linds Lovelace. Just remember Pete, one bite and it's all over; that type of thing doesn't regenerate itself.

Was that Rick L. seen buying a bra for Christmas for his loved one? Honestly Rick, we don't mind her "hanging" around the bar.

Congratulations to Dallas on being a football all-star. Wait until the Cowboys get wind of this!

For Sale: 1 large vat of vaseline. Seems she's allergic to vaseline or him. One of them must go. Contact Howie H. Just dial 'Zero.'

For Sale: 1 shuffleboard: Contact John Kendall in Laird room 520, or leave a note at the C.C. desk.

What's this we hear about John K. going downtown to take education? The Big House. Hey C.M.-haven't seen your hairy B.B. in Ages! signed S. L.A.M.

From the missing contact - I'm still lost, but thanks to the search party, A.M.

Really happy for you! Congrats to Mary-Ellen and Gerry from those at no 2.

Dear A.S. hope Millie kept your knees warm enough last FRIDAY NITE, S.L.A.M.

Who the F*** is S.L.A.M.! Signed A.S. and Millie, C.M.* and B.B.

Best of luck to Pierre Cyr and Ross Lister. From the Class of 1974.

-Heads up Rodger Titman! After that 2 goal jaunt two weeks ago, Claude Ruel is on the look out for you!

-Does Rodger T. need a manager when he makes the 'Big Time'? I'm available (at 30%) R. Stewart.

-Class of 1974: Pick up your finished proofs from Bowe Studios at the C.C. desk on Dec. 6 (Thurs.) - Jim.

-Liz K. will definitely not have a transplant!

-For Sale: 1 motorized sardine can, slightly used. Contact James D. Lakeshore General Hospital.

-to The Wildlifers: Marilyn has had a relapse! The contest will resume after the Christmas Break. Keep sending those entries into the Big Box.

-Merci le French Connection. Thanks for a very good time! The Class of 1974.

-Congratulations to K.O.N. and Audrey!

-Watch out girls on third floor Main, B.C. and S.H. in the Big House are doing their exercises.

-Lesson for the learning dept.: If you cry hard enough you get ice time for nothing. Right Post Grads?!

-Many condolences on the recent loss of one of the esteemed members of the Hot House. Your loss is Janet's loser.

-If B.S. was water we'd all be drowned. Heaven help us if Barrie D. gets a sewage lagoon for his room.

-Eric Thompson, 1972-3 winner of the rookie of the year award, will hand over the title to Rodger Titman, this year's rookie lecturer of the year.

-Prof. Hartsock is now making book on the number of class members in the upcoming swine course. Place your bets in his office.

-A.H.Mc. is putting odds on Bill Stewart passing the swine course. Remember he won 2 dollars from Prof. Hartsock on the trip to Toronto. (10 to 1 against).

UI there is a Wine and Cheese Party that we have to put on for Carnival. We need help! Get out and make a contribution (no matter how small). Contact Class President Colin Baker, Eng; Alain Richard, Gen. Ag. Al Grey, Eng.; Ellen O'Connor and Helen Kollar, F. Sc.

Merry Christmas to everybody who reads this section of the paper first. Chances are if you don't read this section of the paper first, you don't read this paper. The Hot House Three.

To the boys on the football team it's time to quit playing football, the season's been over for three weeks. The Fans on the Quiet Side. Best of luck to Dr. G.M. Jones who is leaving us at Christmas for a warmer climate in Virginia. From the boys in Gen. Ag.

Is it true that G.M. Jones made a bet with Prof. Hartsock and the loser has to leave the country. Also good luck to Dr. Keoghan who is leaving at Christmas. Forage Crops 340-333A will never be the same again. Thanks from all the kids in your class.

There is a move on that the classified ads are eventually going to take over the whole paper so get your ads in while there is still room. Leave them at the C.C. Desk or phone 457-9362. Don't be shy you can even advertise for a guy. (The classifieds will resume in the New Year).

Congratulations to Herb and Brenda.

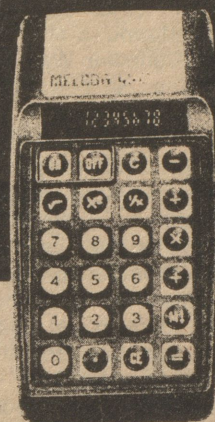
Grant's Bread and Buns are the best in the East Sampler! See Herb at 457-3610. Buns are always fresh.

T.G.I.5. Another Woodsmen Party! Wednesday Dec. 5, 5-11 p.m. C.C. Games Room Lots of Prizes (booze) 3 beer \$1.00 MacDonald Students and Guests.

HOCKEY CLANSMEN

It looks like it may be a long season for our hockey clansmen, however unlike C.M.R., Macdonald-Abbott will not forfeit any game or withdraw from league competition. After five league games we are still looking for our first win. With the exception of a 14-1 trouncing to Loyola, the Clansmen have been in every game. However intimidation has much to do with their demise. Most games have been lost in the first period and unless a change comes about soon, we may wait a long time for victory.

On the brighter side... Dave Henderson, Peter McKay, Gord Armstrong, showing last years form... Booker and Ca-wori could be leaders... Rookies Dallen and Choumard vastly improved... Looking for a win!



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